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Message Text

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21
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01

ACDA-05 SAJ-01 CU-02 /068 W
---------- 105117
P R 231711Z FEB 76
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4699

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY OSLO
US MISSION NATO 780
USEC BRUSSELS

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E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, SP
SUBJECT: STUDENT POLITICAL POLARIZATION ANOTHER CHALLENGE TO
PEACEFUL REFORM

1. MOST RECENT STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS, INCLUDING ONE THIS LAST WEEK IN THE PRADO MUSEUM, HAVE BEEN PEACEFUL AND AIMED AT OBTAINING ACADEMIC REFORMS RATHER THAN NATIONAL POLITICS. HOWEVER, THERE HAVE ALSO BEGUN TO APPEAR CLEAR SIGNS OF A MORE VIOLENT,
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POLITICAL POLARIZATION IN THE STUDENT BODY.

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2. THOUGH REPORTED ATTEMPTS BY THE "JUNTA DEMOCRATICA" AND THE COMMUNIST YOUTH TO CALL MASS POLITICAL DEMONSTRATIONS BY STUDENTS HAVE NOT SUCCEEDED, INCIDENTS HAVE BEEN PROVOKED BETWEEN LEFTIST AND CONSERVATION STUDENTS. PRIOR TO A PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATION ON 4 FEB BKFORE THE MINIMSTRY OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE THERE WERE VERBAL CONFRONTATIONS ON CAMPUS, AT THE STAGING POINT FOR THE MARCH, BETWEEN THE LEFTIST ORGANIZERS AND SUCH CONSERVATIVE OR REACTIONARY STUDENT GROUPS AS "JUVENTUDES MONARQUICAS ESPANOLAS" (JME), FRENTE UNIVERSITARIO DE ACCION NACIONAL" AND "FRENTE ANTICOMUNISTS UNIVERSITATIO." TWO DAYS LATER AT A MEETING ON THE CAMPUS OF MADRID UNIVERSITY
REPORTEDLY ORGANIZED BY THE PCE-DOMINATED WORKERS' COMMISSIONS, A SMALL GROUP OF ANTI-COMMUNIST STUDENTS WHO WERE PROTESTING THE NEETING WERE SURROUNDED BY LEFTIST STUDENTS. ON OF THOSE SURROUNDED REPORTEDLY BRANDISHED A PISTOL. TWO WEEKS LATER, ON 18 FEB, A SERIOUS FIGHT BROKE OUT BETWEEN LEFTIST STUDENTS PROTESTING THE RETURN TO CAMPUS OF THE STUDENT WHO HAD ALLEGEDLY BRANDISHED THE PISTOL AND ANTI-COMMUNIST STUDENTS SUPPORTING HIM. ONE OF THE STUDENTS INJURED WAS THE NEPHEW OF PRIME MINISTER ARIAS. HIS ATTACKERS WERE IDENTIFIED AS MEMBERS OF THE "GUERRILLEROS DE CRISTO REY", A RIGHT WING BULLY BOY GROUP.

3. THOUGH SERIOUS, THESE INCIDENTS OF POLITICAL CONFRONTATIONS BETWEEN STUDENTS HAVE, AS YET BEEN RARE. THE POLICE, AS WELL HAVE, SINCE THEIR WITHDRAQAL FROM UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES IN$EARLY JANUARY REFRAINED FROM ARBITRARILY REENTERING IN FORCE.

4. NORE SERIOUS, THOUGH, HAVE BEEN THE FREQUENT UNAUTHORIZED MEETINGS OF RADICAL STUDENT GROUPS IN UNIVERSITY CLASSROOMS. ON 19 FEB THE RECTOR OF THE AUTONOMOUS UNIVERSITY OF MADRID CALLED IN THE POLICE

TO DISPERSE ONE SUCH SIZABLE MEETING AND WARNED THAT HE WOULD CONTINUE TO DO SO IN THE FUTURE. AND THE GOVT, HAVEING LISTENED DURING A PREPARATORY CABINET MEETING TO REPORTS OF THE NUMEROUS UNATHORIZED RADICAL MEETINGS ON CAMPUS, DECLARED, THOUGH THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, THAT IT WILL NOT PERMIT THE POLITICIZATION OF THE CAMPUS AND WILL ACT STRONGLY TO REPRESS ANY ATTEMPT TO CREAT A "CLIMATE OF MORAL OR PHYSICAL VIOLENCE."
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5. ADDITIONALLY, A MEMBER OF THE ZCORTES" RECENTLY CHARGED THAT "TODAY THE UNIVERSITY IS A MARXIST BUNKER, AND WAS ON TH VERGE OF LARGE SCALE VIOLENCE. HIS REMARKS WERE MADE IN THE COMMITTEE FOR NATIONAL DEFENSE AND WERE STRONGLY SUPPORTED BY TWO GENERALS PRESENT. THEY HAVE PROVOKED CALLS FOR AN INVESTIGATION OF THE PRESENT UNIVERSITY SITUATION.

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6. WHILE ACTS OF VIOLENCE HAVE BEEN MOST RARE ON CAMPUSES
SINCE INTERIOR MINISTER FRAGA MADE IT CLEAR THAT HE WOULD
NOT TOLERIOR TERRORIST ACTS BY EITHER THE RIGHT OR THE LEFT,
IT IS OBVIOUS STUDENT HOOLIGANISM WHICH CHARACTERIZED SPANISH
UNIVERSITIES IN THE LATE PRE-CIVIL WAR ERA. STABLER

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